

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of accessing a streamed zip file comprising:
 - receiving a stream of data containing a zip file, wherein the zip file comprises a set of files and a central directory; and
 - enabling a process to access contents of the central directory as it is received.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the enabling step comprises providing an interface for accessing contents of the central directory.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the enabling step comprises:
 - reading in a central directory file header; and
 - providing an interface to access contents of the central directory file header.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the enabling step comprises:
 - reading in an end of central directory record; and
 - providing an interface to access contents of the end of central directory record.
5. A system for receiving a streamed zip file, wherein the zip file comprises a set of files and a central directory, the system comprising:
 - a central processing unit;

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an application program configured for execution by the central processing unit;

a receiving module, initiated by the application program, for receiving a streamed zip file; and

an interface module, initiated by the application program, for accessing contents of a central directory of the streamed zip file as the central directory is received.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein the interface module is a Java class comprising a central header subclass and a central directory subclass.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein the receiver module reads in a central directory header as an object instance of the central header subclass.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein the central header subclass comprises a set of methods for accessing contents of the object instance.

9. The system of claim 6 wherein the receiver module reads in an end of central directory record as an object instance of the central directory subclass.

10. The system of claim 9 wherein the central directory subclass comprises a set of methods for accessing contents of the object instance.

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11. A computer program product for use in conjunction with a computer system, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium and a computer program mechanism embedded therein, the computer program mechanism comprising:
- a receiving module for receiving a streamed zip file; and
- an interface module for accessing contents of a central directory of the streamed zip file as the central directory is received.
12. The computer program mechanism of claim 11 wherein the interface module is a Java class comprising a central header subclass and a central directory subclass.
13. The computer program mechanism of claim 12 wherein the receiver module reads in a central directory header as an object instance of the central header subclass.
14. The computer program mechanism of claim 13 wherein the central header subclass comprises a set of methods for accessing contents of the object instance.
15. The computer program mechanism of claim 12 wherein the receiver module reads in an end of central directory record as an object instance of the central directory subclass.

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16. The computer program mechanism of claim 15 wherein the central directory subclass comprises a set of methods for accessing contents of the object instance.

17. A memory for storing data for access by an application program being executed on a computer system, comprising:

an interface stored in the memory, the interface for use with a receiver configured for receiving a streamed zip file, wherein the zip file comprises a set of files and a central directory, the interface comprising a process for accessing contents of the central directory as it is received.

18. The memory of claim 17 wherein the process is a Java class comprising a set of methods for accessing contents of an object instance of the Java class, wherein the object instance comprises a central directory header read in by the receiver.

19. The memory of claim 17 wherein the process is a Java class comprising a set of methods for accessing contents of an object instance of the Java class, wherein the object instance comprises an end of central directory record read in by the receiver.

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